

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-14, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 21 and 24, as follows.

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optical element, characterized by a diffraction grating portion which includes first and second diffraction gratings, wherein the first diffraction grating and a first alignment pattern are ~~formed~~ integrally formed of a resin, on a first glass substrate, by molding, and the second diffraction grating and a second alignment pattern are ~~formed~~ integrally formed of a resin, on a first glass substrate, by molding, and wherein the first and second diffraction gratings are accumulated so that the first alignment pattern engages the second alignment pattern.

22. (Previously Presented) A diffractive optical element according to Claim 21, wherein the first and second diffraction gratings are accumulated with an air space.

23. (Previously Presented) A diffractive optical element according to Claim 21, wherein the first and second diffraction gratings are disposed opposed each other.

24. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optical element, characterized by a diffraction grating portion which includes first and second transparent diffraction gratings, wherein the first transparent diffraction grating and a first transparent alignment pattern are ~~formed~~ integrally formed of a resin, on a first glass substrate, by molding, and the second transparent diffraction grating and a second transparent alignment pattern are ~~formed~~ integrally formed of a resin, on a first glass substrate, by molding, and wherein the first and second transparent diffraction gratings are accumulated so that the first transparent alignment pattern engages the second transparent alignment pattern.

25. (Previously Presented) A diffractive optical element according to Claim 24, wherein the first and second transparent diffraction gratings are accumulated with an air space.

26. (Previously Presented) A diffractive optical element according to Claim 24, wherein the first and second transparent diffraction gratings are disposed opposed to each other.

27. (Previously Presented) An optical system, comprising:
a lens; and
a diffractive optical element as recited in Claim 21.

28. (Previously Presented) An optical system, comprising:

a lens; and

a diffractive optical element as recited in Claim 24.